REVIEW.

Saturday, September 6. 1712.

I Have frequently desir'd of the Gentlemen, who trouble themselves with Writing Letters to me, that they would be pleas'd to tell me at the same time, how an Answer may be directed to hem, but in vain; I therefore desire now of those Gentlemen, that think fit to write to me, but are ot willing to have an Answer, that they would be leas'd not to give themselves or me, any farther rouble of that kind, for I shall take no decent no-ice of such Letters, neither, indeed do they deserve ny.

One earnest Gentleman, who I thought by his Writing to have had some Sense and more Honesty, han I find, sent me two Letters, signed *Curtius*, and fter having taken it very ill, that when he had cal-ed me *Mercenary* and *Renegado*, and such like Lan-uage, I should esteem his Letter to be Scurrilous; eing press'd for his Leave to write to him, pretends t is not safe for him to receive an Answer from me; hat my Corrospondence with great Men, may be to is Damage, and I may make my Court at his Ex-ence ——Prepostorous! that Men, who pretend to Correct and Censure other Men, should be able to ractise such Nonsense and abhorr'd Hypocrisie: I ad intended to have given this Person a Respectful nd Convincing Answer to his Objections, and to ave shewn him, wherein he, as other good Men ave, was mistaken, and did me wrong; but such a idiculous Answer from a Man of Sense and Gravity, nd that put a Dignity upon himself, as in his Letter e seem'd to do, was never heard of; as if he might ot have directed an Answer to be left for him under strange Name, at a strange House, and have sent r it by a strange Hand, and have kept himself out f the mighty Danger, even so secure, that the Devil, *I believe nothing of Sathans Knowledge in such Se-rets*, could not find it out; nor is the Treatment at l generous, to a Man that had Ruin'd himself, be-use he would not betray such as himself, and never etray'd any Man in his Life.

But these Men, Dogmatick and Opinionate in heir own Sense, take care effectually to prevent be-g inform'd of the Truth, because the Error they e in, suits their Inclination, and is for their Con-enience; and in like manner, I am used by others, such as *T. W. A. R. a Nameless Author about a Pro-phesie*, and a Multitude of others, to whom I have formerly directed by Advertisement, my desire to write them an Answer; but no such Advertisement being now to be put in, but at the Expence of a Shil-ling, they may take this for a general Rule, that if they do not think fit to direct, how, and where, an Answer may be left, I shall take no notice of such Letters, but rank them with Mr. *Curtius*, as Persons who love to charge falsly, and would not have the Person they Accuse, defend himself, for fear they should be Convinc'd, and oblig'd to blush in Secret, when they read over God's Commandment, *Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.*

I ask Pardon of my Readers, for the many Digressi-ons of this kind, which I am oblig'd, by the Impert-inence of the Time, to make as I go; but I return to where I left off in my last; and as I promised in my first of this Volume, shall now enter more nicely than I have ever done yet, into the State of the Na-tion, in which, those People who think I dare not be plain on one side as well as on the other, may find themselves mistaken; and those who have Insulted me with being Partial and Mercenary, may blush and be asham'd of it.

In my Observations of the Affairs Abroad, I have told you what, I believe, you will find true by the E-vent; I shall give it you again in these few Heads, which I lay down as Aphorisms, in the *State-Philoso-phy* of the Times, whether they are so or not, I shall leave to the Issue.

1. That no Treaty can be carryed on, or Peace made by the Parties now in the War, no, nor ever was, or could be practicable, but on the Foot of *a Partition of the Spanish Monarchy*; and that the Treaties at the *Hague*, and at *Ghertruy-denbergh* were all such.
2. That the furious Strife of Parties, begun here, and carried on Abroad, about Separate Peace, and Separate War, will be the occasion that the Peace will be made on worse Terms, than even the most forward Promoters of Peace would o-therwise have Concluded it on —— I wish our People would awfully reflect upon what Posteri-

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ty will have Reaſon to Reproach them for, as to the preſent Peace; the one ſide for making a Peace on worſe Terms than they might obtain, and the other, for puſhing them upon the Neceſſity of it, for their own Preſervation.

3. That ſome People among us, think the beſt Way to Overthrow the preſent Managers of Affairs, is by puſhing them upon ſuch deſperate Meaſures, as muſt, in their own Nature, tend to publick Confuſion, as that which they think is the ſureſt Way to a new general Revolution; but that thoſe People do not ſufficiently conſider what Diſtreſſes and Extremities this Nation may be brought to, before a Deliverance that Way can be brought to paſs.

4. That no Separate War can be carried on, now we are drawn off from it, but muſt neceſſarily involve this Nation again in a New War with the Conquerors, let it be who it will, either *Dutch* or *French*; unleſs thoſe Conquerors content themſelves with ſuch Limitations of Conqueſt, as are conſiſtent with the Conditions of Peace that we now inſiſt upon.

5. That ſuch a New War to prevent Conqueſt, ſhould it happen with the Confederates, *eſpecially with the Dutch*, would hazard, *at leaſt, if not deſtroy*, the Proteſtant Succeſſion, weaken the Intereſt of the Houſe of *Hanover*, and moſt certainly Encourage the *Jacobite* Party here, to bring the Pretender upon us; that the bringing in the Pretender, would inevitably commence a bloody inteſtine War, in the Bowels of our Country, and involve us all in Blood and Confuſion.

6. That the *Dutch*, however inclin'd to carry on the War, yet ſeeing *Great-Britain* reſolv'd to draw out, and eſpecially ſeeing Providence has not bleſſed their Arms with the uſual Succeſs, and that they may not be able to ſupport the the Weight of the War, which it is apparent muſt lie chiefly on their Shoulders, will certainly, upon a few Additional Demands, which it is hoped may ſtill be obtain'd, come into the General Peace.

I conclude this, with one hint from my private Thoughts, *viz.* That I am in a ſerious awful Expectation, of the Judgment of God approaching this Nation; and this, not with any Enthuſiaſm or Prophetick Spirit, thoſe are Things I make no pretence to; but from many Rational, and, I think, well-grounded Conſiderations, as well founded upon Things at Home, as Things Abroad, and eſpecially on the viſible Approach of the Plague for eight Years paſt, at leaſt one Hundred Miles every Year this Way, which I have already at large explain'd to you, and to which I have this to add, that even by our common News-Papers, *viz.* the *Poſt-Man* and the *Daily-Courant*, of the 28*th* and 30*th* of *Auguſt*, we had an Account of ſeven new Places where the Plague is now broke out, which were not mention'd bef

1. In *Lunenburgh*, where the *Courant* ſays, t cauſed a whole Village to be burn't, and Inhabitants who were left alive, to come ſtark Naked, that their Cloaths might not ta others with the Infection.
2. In the Dutchy of *Bremen*, in ſeveral Places, ſides the Town of *Staden* and the *Daniſh* my.
3. In *Buda*, and in ſeveral other Towns of *Lower Hungaria*.
4. In the *Lower Saxony*, I will not ſay but t may be the ſame with *Lunenburgh*, which is the Circle of the *Lower Saxony*; but the Acco tho' Imperfect, ſeems to ſignifie, that it i the Country of *Saxony*, properly ſo call'd.
5. Apprehended much in *Pomerania*, and the M tality of Cattle actually begun there.
6. In *Conſtantinople* and the Country adjace where it now Rages with great Violence.
7. In *Smirna*, and ſeveral other Cities of *ſia*.

In the ſame Papers, it is ſaid in ſeveral Articl from ſeveral Parts, that a Malignant Feavour w in both the Armies in *Flanders*, eſpecially among t *French*, and a Diſeaſe among the Horſes, in Ou Theſe are but ſome of my Reaſons for expecting here in a ſhort Time, and I am almoſt preſs'd in Mind to ſay, We ſhall not eſcape it; as for thoſe t mock at theſe Things, I mock at them with a Co tempt I care not to expreſs; I am not ſo Flegmati as to be filling you with needleſs Alarms, but if th are not more viſible Reaſons, why we ſhould app hend it now, than there have been for 30 Years pa let any one blame me, and if there are, let eve Man lay his Hand to his Heart, and conſider it.

Things Abroad being in this poſture, I ſhall lea them for a while, and returning to our Affairs Home, I ſhall enter a little into that ſad, melanch ly Thing, call'd *the State of the Nation*; I kn it will be my Fate not to pleaſe you, no, not any you, *Whig* or *Tory*, except that poor deſpicable ſe who ſigh for, and lament the Ruin of their Countr my Enquiry ſhall reſpect the following Heads, which, no Truth comes in my Way, I ſhall let you ſee I am not afraid to ſpeak it; and ſince I am driv to the Neceſſity of a plainneſs which I did not d deſign, you ſhall have a compleat Hiſtory with Nam and Sir-Names let it fall where it will; the Hea are theſe.

1. The State of Parties.
2. The State of Religion.
3. The State of Trade.
4. The State of Liberty and Property.
5. The State of the Government and Succeſſi
6. The State of *Scotland* Abſtracted.

Printed for *J. Baker*, at the *Black-Boy* in *Paper-Noſter Row*. 1712.
(Price *Three Half pence*)